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THE NATIONAL ERA.

WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 10, 1849.

For the National Era.

SKETCHES OF

MODERN REFORMS AND REFORMERS.

GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

NEW SERIES.

Mrs. Elizabeth Fry—Mrs. Amelia O'Connell—Lady Noel Byron—Miss Harriet Martineau—Mrs. Mary Howitt.

It would do injustice both to my own feelings

and the facts of history, to leave it to be inferred,

from my silence, that the women of England have

not furnished some of the purest and brightest

names in the galaxy of Modern Reformers.

Looking over so casually in this direction, what

figure so prominently before the eye as that of ELIZABETH

FRY—the friend of the prisoner, the bond-

woman, the lunatic, the beggar—who has been ap-
named "the female Howard!"

I do not mean to say that her benevolent impulses

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respect to crime, creed, or color.

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in doctrine, she belongs to the strictest of the

sect, while she talks of Barclay's Apology and

Byron's Child Harold, of George Fox's preach-

ing, and of the Quaker's mode of dress, and

tends with equal delight. Suppose her

and she would sound odd in any company, and

her tongue trip occasionally when she speaks

of Tom Moore's champagne jokes at Lord Hol-

land's dinners; and suppose her dress is juvenile

in style, and fastidious in arrangement, darning

the eye, and the whole of her appearance

brilliantly of the blushing chandelier, showing that

no belle in the room has soiled more hours at her

toilette this evening, than she; still she is good,

and she does not set them to thinking to hard

the cause of human misery as Miss Martineau

stimulates them to so much activity in alleviating

suffering.

In 1833, soon after her marriage with Mr.

Howitt, and two more congenial spirits never

before united in the same household, they

went to the Forest of Dean, a beautiful and

picturesque spot, and there they lived for some

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States of the Commonwealth of Nations, the Sup-

remacy Law has established, not a judicial tri-

bunal, but an arbitral tribunal, and the insti-

tution established for the determination of justice

between the nations.

But the provisions of the municipal law of

Massachusetts and of the Federal Constitution

are not vain words. It is well known to all who

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and Plaid, (See *New York Tribune*, March 10th, 1849.) "after full and deliberate consideration of the subject," says it "an indispensable condition of emancipation is that the emancipated slaves should be removed from the State to some colony." "The colonization of the free blacks, as they successively arrive, from year to year, at the age cutting them from freedom, is a condition absolutely indispensable. Without it, I would be opposed to any scheme of emancipation." The expense of this expedition is, says Mr. Clay, to be defrayed by a fund to be raised from the labor of each freed slave. The African Repository of April, 1849, says, "show us a more excellent way, if they can."

"Every year adds to the (the managers) firm conviction that the free people of color must be removed from among us."—*Annual Report of Maryland State Colonization Society, in African Repository*, July, 1846, p. 312.

W. M. L. Secretary of the American Colonization Society, says, in the *Annual Report* of January, 1849, "if the presence of the various tribes of Indians in our midst is a great evil, which the Government was called upon to mitigate, and if a great national wrong was done by removing them from their borders—then surely the existence of the colored race in the United States is a great political evil, and their removal would be an immense national blessing. And if the Government had power to act in the one case, has it not the power to act in the other?"

Thus have I aimed to render my promise to a great extent, Messrs. Editors, as your limits will allow. I am aware that it is difficult to prepare such an article for publication, or even to publish wholly free from error. Some of the proofs will appear stronger than others, and they may not all be most judiciously arranged. Still it presents a mass of testimony, in addition to that already published in my first communication in your paper of July 1st, that will, I think, not awaken very serious thoughts in the minds of all who have pledged, or may be invited to pledge, their support to the American Colonization Society, or any of its auxiliaries.

"That the Society has done no good, I will not say; and it would be absurd to aver that the motives of all its founders and supporters have been wrong. That it was founded chiefly by slaveholders, for selfish purposes, is capable of proof; that it is at war with the best interests of the slaves and free people of color in the United States, is unquestionably true; that it is advocated in opposition to the principles of an enlightened philanthropy, true political wisdom, and just views of Christianity, cannot, one would think, be denied; that Colonizationists, generally, are decidedly opposed to the elevation of the people of color in this country, with a view to their remaining here, and often annoy them to make them willing to be expatriated, the colored people think they have abundant proof; almost unanimously opposed to the 'scheme,' root and branch.

Will it be said that the American Colonization Society is not responsible for all the opinions uttered by its auxiliaries or advocates? It is surely responsible for all that it publishes, without censure or exception, without approving friends, or its auxiliaries, or its orators and friends. Will it be insinuated, that because errors, typographical or in reference to facts, or of any other kind, critical eye, that therefore the main argument of this article is weakened? I trust that the general scope will be regarded, the mass of proof looked to, and unimportant errors and defects candidly overlooked.

LEWIS TAPPAN.
Cor. Sec. Amer. and Foreign Anti-Slavery Soc.

THE NATIONAL ERA.

WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 13, 1849.

✶ The Editor of the Era having returned, intends to resume his editorial duties next week. He takes this opportunity of rendering thanks to the gentleman, a citizen of the South, who has so ably filled the editorial department during his absence.

Communications designed for publication will now receive due attention, and we shall try to bring up the arrears of our business correspondence as soon as possible.

We find on our table numerous favors from the Bookellers, which will soon be noticed in an appropriate manner.

✶ Our foreign correspondence, we are sure, will attract general attention. The account of the Peace Congress, written by one of the delegates to it, is highly interesting; and the "Historical Sketch of the Prussian Revolution," by "Orwell," the first chapter of which appears to-day, is of great value.

✶ The articles in the Era this week, are valuable, but they are long, and several of importance have no notice. The good-natured reader will find an apology for this in the absence of the editor. Next week, we hope, arrears will be brought up.

MRS. SOUTHWORTH'S STORY.

We have on hand the first chapter of Mrs. Southworth's promised story, *The Eve*. We shall not commence the publication of it till the one she is now writing for an Eastern periodical be completed—an event not far off. Judging from the part in our possession, we infer that the story will more than fulfill the high expectations raised by her late entitled *Retribution*. We are at liberty to add, that the principal characters are true to life, and the main facts are true as history.

IRREGULARITIES OF THE MAIL.

We are daily receiving complaints from subscribers, of the failure or irregular reception of their papers. We assure them that the fault is not with us. There has been no change in the mailing department in our office. The cause of the irregularities is certainly to be found in the appointment of new postmasters, and the consequent changes of clerks.

SAMUEL LEWIS, one of the most prominent citizens of Cincinnati, writes to us, that he has not received an *Eve* for four months. Now, we know the fault is not our own. His name is highly written on our mail books, and stands just where it has stood for the last year.

From Boston, and from offices depending upon that as a distributing office, we hear constant complaints; but our mail books are the same, and the same in our office engaged in mailing are the same. It is only within a short period that there has been cause for such complaint.

As the new postmasters grow familiar with their duties, we have no doubt the mischief will be remedied. Meantime, they should look to their clerks and subordinates, and, if they cannot or will not make out the directions on packages, supply their places with more competent ones.

THE HARTFORD REPUBLICAN is revived. We regret the withdrawal from the editorial chair of W. H. Burleigh, its excellent editor, who has labored long and earnestly in the Anti-Slavery cause. The paper will be henceforth published and edited by J. D. Baldwin, an old Liberty man, a member of the late Legislature of Connecticut, a man of talent, energy, and integrity.

LEWIS PINKNEY.—This paper, always distinguished by its boldness and independence in entering its strong convictions, has ceased to exist. Its sturdy editor, George Bradburn, was accustomed to speak what he thought, with great plainness of tongue, giving himself no concern as to whom it might please or offend. We shall miss him.

"THE CINCINNATI GLOBE" has been merged in the CINCINNATI NON-RESISTANCE, and both are now published by an Association of Printers, under the title of "The Era of the Non-Resistant." Stanley Matthews retains the editorial chair, and aims to resume his pen, we hope, under more favorable auspices.

The editor of the Era has been the Cincinnati Morning Herald, August, 1849, and continued it till December, 1849, when, being about to leave for Washington for the purpose of starting the Era, he transferred it to E. E. H. H. and Mr. Matthews. It was continued under the title of "Herald," till about a year ago, when it absorbed the Cincinnati Morning Signal, and thereupon assumed the name of Globe. At the close of the sixth year of its existence, it is itself

absorbed by the Non-Resistant, which has the good taste to restore the old title, *Herald*, and the good sense to advocate Free Soil, Free Labor, and Free Men.

Mr. Matthews has fairly won the reputation of a liberal, vigorous, and comprehensive thinker, and we learn with great pleasure that the Anti-Slavery cause in the West is, we long, to have the benefit of his experience and abilities as an editor.

THE BRITISH WEST INDIES.

In another column will be found a highly interesting, though not equally satisfactory, account of the condition and prospects of the emancipated colonies of Great Britain in the West Indies. The fact cannot be concealed, that the annual exports of the islands have diminished since the act of emancipation took effect; and this circumstance, in the minds of a great many, outweighs every other consideration. Justice and philanthropy must go to the wall, with most reasoners, unless they are consistent with the largest profits. Slavery and the slave trade must be maintained, if they are essential to the prosperity of the planters. It is needless to say, that we dissent, in toto, from this reasoning. We believe that honesty is the best policy, but if the case were otherwise, still men should be honest. Emancipation should take place, regardless of pecuniary consequences.

But we have not admitted, and shall not admit, that Emancipation is a failure, even in its lowest aspect. We have stated that the exports of the colonies have diminished since the act of emancipation went into operation. But it is not a necessary inference that the diminution has been occasioned by that event. The statistics of the islands show that the amount of exports has been falling off for near half a century. It has doubtless resulted from the impoverishment of the soil, by the system of slave cultivation—a system which has ruined Virginia and the Carolinas.

The following tables are from official sources in the islands. It will be seen that in Jamaica, the largest island, the greatest export was made in 1805, since which time there has been a gradual decline in the principal articles, sugar and coffee. There has been an increase in the product of one article, pineapples or allspice. We have no returns at command for other islands, except Barbadoes, and in that only for five years, commencing with 1832. There was a considerable increase in exports and imports during that period, which embraced the epoch of emancipation:

General returns of Exports of Sugar, Pineapples, and Coffee, from the island of Jamaica, for the years, 1805 to 1848.				
Year.	Sugar, in cwt.	Pineapples, in cwt.	Coffee, in cwt.	Value, in £.
1805	72,596	1,453	849	—
1806	72,596	1,453	849	—
1807	72,596	1,453	849	—
1808	72,596	1,453	849	—
1809	72,596	1,453	849	—
1810	72,596	1,453	849	—
1811	72,596	1,453	849	—
1812	72,596	1,453	849	—
1813	72,596	1,453	849	—
1814	72,596	1,453	849	—
1815	72,596	1,453	849	—
1816	72,596	1,453	849	—
1817	72,596	1,453	849	—
1818	72,596	1,453	849	—
1819	72,596	1,453	849	—
1820	72,596	1,453	849	—
1821	72,596	1,453	849	—
1822	72,596	1,453	849	—
1823	72,596	1,453	849	—
1824	72,596	1,453	849	—
1825	72,596	1,453	849	—
1826	72,596	1,453	849	—
1827	72,596	1,453	849	—
1828	72,596	1,453	849	—
1829	72,596	1,453	849	—
1830	72,596	1,453	849	—
1831	72,596	1,453	849	—
1832	72,596	1,453	849	—
1833	72,596	1,453	849	—
1834	72,596	1,453	849	—
1835	72,596	1,453	849	—
1836	72,596	1,453	849	—
1837	72,596	1,453	849	—
1838	72,596	1,453	849	—
1839	72,596	1,453	849	—
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1841	72,596	1,453	849	—
1842	72,596	1,453	849	—
1843	72,596	1,453	849	—
1844	72,596	1,453	849	—
1845	72,596	1,453	849	—
1846	72,596	1,453	849	—
1847	72,596	1,453	849	—
1848	72,596	1,453	849	—

We regret that we are unable to place in parallel columns the exports from Virginia and South Carolina, where the deterioration has been far more rapid than in Jamaica. The soil of the Southern States being less fertile than that of the British colony, has been sooner and more completely exhausted by slavery; but it is quite apparent, from an inspection of the table, that the "peculiar institution" was rapidly wasting the latter. A tropical climate, and a soil of great natural fertility, has resisted the malignant influence of slavery in the West Indies for a century and a half, while Alabama and Mississippi, which were settled but yesterday, already exhibit symptoms of premature decrepitude.

All that can be inferred from a view of the whole case is, that emancipation has not arrested the downward tendency. So great a change in the social relations of a community is always attended with temporary mismanagement. This effect has been recently witnessed in the affairs of Europe, and particularly in France. And will republicans oppose reforms, because they occasion these momentary derangements in the business affairs of a people?

The negroes of the West Indies were far below those of our country in point of civilization; and, under a tropical sun, have less energy of body and mind. They were less civilized, for the reason that there is a smaller proportion of whites among them than is to be found in any part of the Southern States, and hence they have had less opportunity for acquiring civilized habits, manners, and ideas. For these reasons, they will be slow in acquiring the habits of industry and carefulness for the future, which are essential to the prosperity of a free people. That they have improved, and will continue to improve, is a question of time. This effect has been recently witnessed in the affairs of Europe, and particularly in France. And will republicans oppose reforms, because they occasion these momentary derangements in the business affairs of a people?

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prevent the slaves from deserting their badge for the land of freedom. It may be said that this results from the perversity or ignorance of the negroes, who are too simple to know what is best for them. This argument may do for the slave, who has never tried freedom, but it will not account for the fact that the freed negroes never show a desire to draw on their cast-off fetters. Such reasoning is as absurd as would be that of the European aristocratic classes, in contending that the lower orders among them are happier and better provided for, than the working classes of America; and that they are induced to emigrate to the United States through ignorance of their best interests.

We take it that whatever may have been the effect of emancipation upon the planters, its tendency has been greatly to improve the condition of the negroes, physically, morally, and mentally. This position is well established. Before emancipation, matrimony had no legal existence among the slaves, and even the nominal marriage, which might be severed at the caprice of the planter, was rare. But no sooner had the negroes become free, than they began to respect themselves too much to permit in that worse than savage social state, and marriage became general. Is this nothing? Will a man, calling himself a Christian or a gentleman, stand up and treat this first fruit of emancipation as nothing, in comparison with a few hogheads of sugar? Schools have been established among the poor, benighted negroes, and the rising generation are almost universally acquiring the rudiments of education. Far more attention is bestowed upon religion and upon all the social and domestic virtues, by both blacks and whites. It will require the hardihood of the negro trader to set down these results as failures. Every honest man who is made aware of them must admit them to be of infinitely more worth than all the sugar and coffee which has been produced in half a century.

There are two circumstances which militate against the prosperity of the British West Indies. The first has been universally assigned as the fruitful source of ill to Ireland, viz: Absenteeism.

The soil is, to a considerable extent, owned by persons residing in England, and the results of its industry, instead of being expended at home, in the improvement of agriculture, or invested in other profitable mode, is squandered in a foreign land, where the planter can find no market for his produce, and where the soil is inexhaustible fertility, and there is a plentiful supply of cheap labor, the amount of exports may not be affected by Absenteeism; but it is evident that wealth cannot accumulate, under such circumstances, on the islands, however much it may do so in the hands of the distant proprietors. This is the bone of Ireland, and to some extent, of the British West Indies. 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